



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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#8

Appl. No. : 09/739,132  
Applicant : Crawford, et al.  
Filed : December 18, 2000  
TC/AU : 2174  
Examiner : Truc T. Chuong

Docket No. : NC13989 / 873.0008.USU  
Customer No. : 29683

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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APR 15 2004

Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Specification:** None.

**Amendments to the Claims:** None.

**Amendments to the Drawings:** None.

**Remarks/Arguments:** Begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Appendix:** None.

Applicant believes that the filing of this paper is within one month after expiration of the allotted shortened statutory period for reply, and hereby petitions for a one-month extension of time. A draft in the amount of \$290 is enclosed for that extension and for the fee under 1.17(p) for the attached IDS. Should additional extensions and/or fees be due, please consider this a petition for an extension of time that may be required to maintain the pendency of this patent application, and charge Deposit Account No. 50-1924 for any required fee deficiency.